What does The Matrix convey about reality?

The movie “The Matrix” is about a man named Neo who realizes that the world as we know it is in actuality a computer program which was created by machines in order to keep human beings in control. The basic knowledge issue that this conveys is “How do we know that what we think is real is real?” However there are other issues involved as well.

For example, the movie challenges our perception by suggesting that our senses can be tricked and are therefore not to be trusted. For instance, a character in the movie delivers the following line while eating some steak inside of the Matrix, “You know, I know this steak doesn't exist. I know that when I put it in my mouth, the Matrix is telling my brain that it is juicy and delicious.” In this case, the character’s senses are being tricked by a few highly complicated lines of computer code. But there are other ways as well, such as optical illusions (3D glasses, for example) or hallucinogenic drugs.

Another example of a knowledge issue from the movie is how does Neo know that the world outside the Matrix is actually the real world? In the movie, Neo is shown the “truth” by a man named Morpheus. Morpheus convinces Neo by reasoning with him. He shows him what the “real world” and the Matrix “really are”. Isn’t it more believable, though, that this is the fake world, or a dream, and that what he thought was the real world actually was just that? Also, if Neo’s perceptions are so easily fooled that he could be tricked his entire life into thinking that an entire world was real, how can he be sure that this is real? Perhaps this is just another level of the Matrix used to control those who might have escaped.

Another issue presented by the movie could be whether or not it’s better to face the hard truth or to live your life in blissful ignorance. One character in the movie named Cypher, wishes he had stayed in the Matrix rather than live in the real world. He eventually betrays his allies in order to have his mind wiped and be placed back in the Matrix. This shows that sometimes the truth is too much to take and it’s easier to just take the simpler way out. At one point Cypher says “I think that the Matrix can be more real than this world”. This just goes to show that what we perceive as reality can be subjective depending on who you are. Everyone has a slightly different version of reality.

In conclusion, the Matrix conveys that reality is not necessarily what we consider it to be and there is no real way of knowing what it actually is. It also conveys that

reality may also be subjective.